

Q. It was always that he gave you —

A. Along the lines.

Q. Just a minute. He gave you jobs to do, did he?

A. More or less, yes.

Q. Suppose, for instance, that Mr. Adams asked you for information on a particular subject. Would you just try to look up the documents in your office on that subject and pass on the information to Mr. Adams? Is that the way it worked?

A. He would ask me and usually it was answered at the time. I do not think there was any looking through a particular file; it was just anything I might be aware of in answering the questions he put.

Q. In any event you gave him such information from time to time?

A. Yes.

Q. Adams was the leader of that group in Ottawa here?

A. Yes.

Q. And it was because he was the leader that you were giving information to him?

A. No. He is the only person who spoke to me.

Q. But he was the leader?

A. I don't think it has any significance, the fact that he was the leader. I don't think it had any significance.

Q. You told us yesterday that you were a group, and that you thought you were helping your Party by giving information to the group; so obviously you gave the information to the leader of the group?

A. As a group we did not discuss those kind of matters. He merely spoke to me as an individual. The group did not discuss this kind of thing. We discussed the theory and practice of Socialism and Communism, and the party program.

Q. But the information was given only to Adams?

A. Yes.

Q. But you knew you were serving your Party by giving information to Adams?

A. He gave me to understand that; yes.

Q. You told us that Adams left Ottawa for Montreal around 1944?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you meet him thereafter?

A. He came to Ottawa sometimes.

Q. How often?

A. About three or four times, as far as I can remember.

Q. Four or five times?

A. No, I think three or four. I don't remember.

Q. And how would you get in touch with him then?

A. Miss Chapman told me that he was coming.

Q. Every time?

A. Yes.

Q. She would phone you?

A. Yes, or if I happened to see her anywhere.

Q. Or if you would meet her?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell us exactly what procedure was followed?

A. She would telephone, or tell me if she happened to see me somewhere.

Q. Miss Chapman would telephone you and tell you she had to see you somewhere?

A. No. She might telephone me and tell me that he was coming, or she might meet me somewhere in the normal course of events and tell me.

Q. That Adams was coming?

A. Yes.

Q. And then?

A. I would arrange to meet him.

Q. How would you arrange to meet him?

A. He usually was driving, and he would just pick me up.

Q. That is the way the meeting would take place, but how did you arrange to meet him; through whom? How would you contact him?

A. I didn't contact him; Miss Chapman just told me he was coming, and she apparently did the contacting.

Q. She told you he would be in his car at a certain place at a certain time?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were to be there?

A. Yes.

Q. And what time of the day would these meetings take place?

A. After work. I think the early evening, as far as I can remember.

Q. And where would they take place? Any corner? Any place on the street?

A. I remember at the corner of Lisgar and Bank, at the street car stop. I don't remember any other place, just there or somewhere like that.

Q. And any time you were notified that he would be at any particular place, you would meet him?

A. I would try to; yes.

Q. You did, as a matter of fact?

A. Yes.

Q. Any time?

A. Yes, any time.

Q. And what would take place from then on?

A. Just go for a short drive and talk.

Q. You would board the car with him and go for a short drive?

A. Yes.

Q. And what would take place then?

A. I would just talk to him, or he would ask me questions.

Q. And you would convey the information he was asking for?

A. Yes.

Q. And would he drive you home afterwards, or leave you on the street?

A. Just drop me wherever we happened to be.

Q. When the conversation was over?

A. Yes.

Q. And when the information was transmitted to him?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long would that last?

A. Ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.

Q. Why would you not meet him at your place?

A. Well, he didn't suggest it. He said he had the car, he would meet me at a certain place.

Q. Were you requested to meet him in Montreal at all?

A. Yes, last September.

Q. In September of — ?

A. 1945.

Q. How did you know that you were requested to go there?

A. Miss Chapman told me.

Q. What did she tell you?

A. She said he would like to see me during September.

Q. For what purpose?

A. Just to ask me a few things, I suppose. She said he was going away, so would I try to see him before the end of September.

Q. She said he was going away?

A. Yes.

Q. Where?

A. She didn't say where. She said he wouldn't be in Montreal. I suppose that's it; it would be somewhere distant from here.

Q. And he wanted to see you in Montreal?

A. Yes.

Q. So did you proceed to Montreal?

A. Yes, I went down in September.

Willsher drove as far as Dorval, where she took the train to Montreal. Her evidence continues:—

Q. And you took a train to Montreal, and Adams met you at the Windsor station?

A. Yes.

Q. And drove you to his apartment?

A. Yes.

Q. What took place at the apartment?

A. When I got there I said he seemed to be surprised at me coming, and I said I had been told he was going away and that I should try to come down in September. He said, "Oh, but I'm not going away. There must have been some mistake." He said, "I did go for a short trip west."

Q. Did he say where?

A. No; just west.

Q. And then?

A. And it seemed rather strange. I felt there was something unusual, and it seemed that my visit was purposeless, because he was not going away; there was not any urgency of any kind. So then he took me to dinner, and I met the family and his wife, and most of the time was spent there, and we went back to the station at half-past seven.

Q. You were surprised?

A. Well, it had seemed that it was urgent I should go.

Q. You were being asked to go to Montreal to meet him, and you expected the interview would be of some importance and urgency?

A. Yes, or that he would say, "I am going away for a long time," and there was nothing like that.

Q. He would not call you just to tell you he was going away for a long time. You suspected that possibly he would arrange for some other contact for you to make?

A. I suppose that might be so.

Q. Do you suppose, or is that not the fact?

A. I should think so.

Q. You did think so, didn't you?

A. Yes.

Q. So there was nothing, no information asked or given, and no instructions given of any kind?

A. No.

Q. And as you have stated, this trip to Montreal became absolutely without any result? There was no result?

A. Yes: no result.

Q. To your surprise?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you come back from Montreal to Ottawa?

A. By train.

Q. Who paid the expenses for it?

A. That involves this matter of the \$25 that I mentioned in my statement. During the summer, I think it was the last time I saw him —

Q. We will finish that question first of all. Who paid for your trip back to Ottawa?

A. I paid it out of the \$25.

Q. Which was given to you by whom?

A. Adams.

Q. When?

A. During the summer.

Q. Where?

A. At Ottawa.

Q. Was that during one of these meetings in the car?

A. Yes.

Q. And for what purpose did he give the money to you then?

A. He said, "If you have to go to Montreal you can pay part of your expenses."

Q. And you accepted the money?

A. Yes. I didn't think twice about it. I should have thought twice about it, but I didn't.

Q. And how much of that money did you use?

A. A single fare from Montreal to Ottawa.

Q. Which amounts to about what?

A. I think it is \$4.25.

Q. What did you do with the balance?

A. I have it.

Q. You kept it for further trips?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it Miss Chapman who gave you the message that Mr. Adams would like to see you in Montreal on this occasion?

A. Yes.

Q. When did she give you that message?

A. I suppose near the beginning of September.

Q. That would be perhaps two weeks before you actually went?

A. It might be.

Q. And she told you when to go?

A. She didn't lay down any definite time. She said during the month, if I could.

Q. So you could have gone any day after the day she gave you that message?

A. Yes.

Q. Then you went; and did Miss Chapman tell you why you were wanted to go to Montreal?

A. She said Mr. Adams would be leaving Montreal.

Q. That is all she said?

A. Yes.

Q. So what information did you go to Montreal to impart to Mr. Adams?

A. Nothing particular. I expected he had something to tell me, as I had been asked to go.

Q. You expected that you would receive some instructions from Mr. Adams; is that it?

A. Yes, or that he would tell me he was just going away. I don't know why. I suppose instructions.

Q. Now, Miss Willsher, you would not go down to Montreal to have Mr. Adams tell you he was going away, when Miss Chapman had already told you that?

A. No. I gathered that he would tell me —

Q. Then your idea of your trip to Montreal was that you were going to get instructions from Mr. Adams?

A. Yes.

Q. Or that Mr. Adams was going to ask you some questions about what you might have learned from your employment in the meantime?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that a fair way of putting it?

A. Yes.

Q. And then you say that when you got there he told you that this idea that he had proposed to go away was a false alarm?

A. Yes. Not a false alarm, but he was not going away.

Q. And after that it was just a nice little family conversation?

A. Yes.

Q. Mrs. Adams was there, and the family?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you had a nice trip to Montreal, and that is all that took place?

A. Yes.

Q. And you are serious with that?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Adams did not give you any instructions?

A. No.

Q. Didn't tell you anything?

A. No.

Q. You didn't tell him anything?

A. No.

Q. To summarize the whole situation, as I understand it, you were disappointed?

A. Well, I felt it was a waste of time. I didn't think any more of it after that. I thought it was just rather queer, that is all.

Q. When he gave that money to you, was that given to you in an envelope, in bills? In what form was it?

A. Loose cash.

Q. Loose cash?

A. Yes.

Q. In bills?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you keep those bills?

A. No; I paid them into the Ontario Savings Bank. You will find an entry of \$25.

Q. That is into your own account?

A. Yes.

Q. What is the number of your account?

A. W-883.

Q. What bank?

A. Ontario Savings.

Q. And what branch?

A. On Sparks Street. There is only one. You can see it in my little passbook.

Q. You have not this passbook with you?

A. No, it is at my home.

COMMISSIONER: With relation to the time that you returned from Montreal, when did you make that deposit?

A. I don't know whether I paid it back just like that; I mean I think —

Q. But you came back to Ottawa on Sunday?

A. Yes.

Q. And when did you make the deposit?

A. I got the money in Ottawa, in a car. I then put it into the bank, within a day or two.

Q. I am sorry; I was confused about that.

COUNSEL: So the deposit of \$25 which will appear in your passbook in the summer of 1945 will definitely set the date of the reception of that amount, or the day previous, I suppose?

A. Well, I might have taken two or three days; I couldn't say. I don't remember at all how long. I know I did place it in my bank.

The deposit in the Bank was proved before us as having been made on June 21st, 1945.

Before referring to Adams' evidence as to the above events, other portions of his evidence should be considered.

He displayed the same furtiveness as other witnesses on the subject of Communism and his own position and associations. We have not the slightest doubt as to where he stands and we accept Willsher's evidence as to him unreservedly. The following illustrates Adams' evasiveness:—

Q. Are there some Communist newspapers published in Canada that you know?

A. There is a paper I know of that is quite often referred to as a Communist paper.

Q. What is the name?

A. *Tribune*.

Q. Is that the right name? Is it *Tribune* purely and simply?

A. I think so.

Q. Where would that be published?

A. I think it is published in Toronto.

Q. That is a Communist paper?

A. Well, it is referred to as a Communist paper. I do not know whether it is or not.

Q. Referred to by whom? Do you know yourself whether it is a Communist paper?

A. No, I do not.

Q. Well, American; do you know of any American Communist papers?

A. Yes, I know about the *Daily Worker*.

Q. Where is that published?

A. I think it is published in New York.

Q. And any others?

A. I do not think so.

Q. Do you read the *Tribune* yourself?

A. Yes, occasionally.

Q. Do you mean occasionally or regularly?

A. No, I mean occasionally; I pick them up on the newsstand sometimes.

Q. What is your interest in them?

A. I have been interested in the study of the economics of Socialism and Communism for a good many years, academic, I would say.

Q. When you say "Communist paper" do you make a distinction with a Labour-Progressive paper, or are they the same thing?

A. I did not, because the *Tribune*, I said I have seen referred to as a Communist paper. I guess more correctly it should be called a Labour-Progressive paper now.

Q. Over what period of time have you been interested in these papers?

A. Well, do not confine it to the papers.

Q. I am confining my question to the papers. Just answer the question.

A. Oh, off and on for several years, I guess.

Q. Four, five, ten?

A. Probably as much as ten, yes.

Q. You could not very well study the economics of Communism without knowing something about Communism in a broad sense, could you?

A. No, that is right.

Q. And how long have you been doing that, ten years?

A. I guess possibly ten years.

Q. So that you know something about Communism?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, from what you know about Communism the question that is really put to you is, what is your opinion of it? Do you agree with it in whole or in part or do you not? What is your opinion?

A. I think it is a political movement that has a lot of interest in it in these times, and that it is worth my while if I ever get the time to continue studying it as I started to.

Q. You see in that answer you have not said a word about your opinion. Are you a Communist?

A. No, I am not a Communist.

Q. Are you sympathetic?

A. If that means do they sometimes do something that I think is all right, yes, sometimes they do.

Q. It does not mean that at all. You know perfectly well what it means. Are you sympathetic?

A. I am sorry; I do not understand clearly then what you mean by "sympathetic".

Q. Well, there are certain ideas basic to Communism. Would you agree with that?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you agree with those ideas?

A. Under certain conditions and certain times and places, possibly.

Q. What is the limitation that you indicate by your qualifying language?

A. I do not know how I can answer that question. Can I talk to my lawyer because it is a question of opinion, and opinions differ under different conditions and different times.

Q. We are asking your opinion on it, not others' opinions.

A. I am saying my opinion differs at different times and under different conditions.

Q. I asked you what you meant by that. You are the only one that knows.

A. Well, I would have to get your definitions of the terms, what you think Communism means so that anything I said would bear direct reference to your question. Communism and these political terms of that nature mean different things to different people. What it means in your opinion may be different from what it means in mine.

Q. So you find yourself in the position of being unable to answer the question?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you have at any time any dealings at all with Communists?

A. What do you mean by "dealing"?

Q. What do you understand by "dealings"?

A. If I go to a book store and get a book and the bookseller is a Communist am I dealing with a Communist?

Q. I am putting the question. My question is you know what a Communist is, do you?

A. Well, I think I do. I do not know whether it coincides with what your opinion of a Communist is.

Q. What is a Communist to you?

A. A Communist is a member of the Communist Party.

Q. My question is, did you ever have any dealings with a Communist?

A. I suppose I probably have because I probably have bought books and things like that from them.

Q. I am not speaking of books. I am speaking of Communists. I am not in a hurry, you know.

A. I am sorry; I do not understand clearly what you mean by "dealings".

Coming to the events deposed to by Willsher, Adams said:—

Q. Do you know Kay Willsher?

A. Yes, I think I have met her.

Q. Where?

A. Some party or other probably.

Q. What sort of party?

A. Social gathering.

Q. Where, in what city?

A. Here in Ottawa.

Q. Anywhere else?

A. I do not recall anywhere else.

Q. In Montreal?

A. I am not sure. I think she came to our house once in Montreal.

Q. Who invited her?

COMMISSIONER:—For what purpose?

A. A social call, I guess.

COUNSEL:—Who called her? Who asked her to go to your house?

A. I do not know.

Q. Who invited her to go to Montreal to your place?

A. I do not know.

Q. You have no idea?

A. I suppose it was—she was in Montreal and came to our place either on my invitation or my wife's. I do not remember now.

Q. Do you know who paid her expenses?

A. No.

Q. You have no idea?

A. No.

Q. Would you believe that when she is under oath she says the truth?

A. I do not know.

Q. You would not be ready to invite her to your home if you would not be sure of that, whether under oath she would speak the truth?

A. I do not know her very well.

Q. Well, you invite her to your home, though?

A. There are lots of people in my house that I do not know very well.

Q. Well, Miss Willsher testified, Mr. Adams, that you invited her to your home in Montreal and that you gave her \$25 to pay not only for the expenses of that trip but for any other trips she may have to do later. Did she commit perjury or did she say the truth when she said that?

A. I do not know.

COMMISSIONER:—Why do you not know?

A. Because I do not remember giving her any \$25.

Q. Well, was there any truth in any part of what you have been told she said here?

A. I am sorry. Would you make —

Q. No, no, you do that too often, Mr. Adams. You heard the question. Is there any truth in any part of it?

A. That she came to Montreal on my invitation?

Q. You heard what was told you that she said, and the question is was there any truth in any part of what she said?

A. I am sorry, I cannot carry it all in my head.

COUNSEL:—How did you happen to know her? Who introduced her to you?

A. I do not remember who introduced her.

Q. Eh?

A. I do not remember who introduced her.

Q. Well, I will read her evidence to you, page 823. This is after having explained that she had been invited to go to Montreal, and I will tell you under what circumstances she was later:—

Q. Who paid the expenses for it?

A. That involves this matter of the \$25 that I mentioned in my statement. During the summer I think it was the last time I saw him—

Q. We will finish that question first of all. Who paid for your trip back to Ottawa?

A. I paid it out of the \$25.

Q. Which was given to you by whom?

A. Adams.

Q. When?

A. During the summer.

Q. Where?

A. At Ottawa.

Now, the question is, was Miss Willsher telling the truth when she said that under oath or was she not?

A. I do not know because I do not remember that.

COMMISSIONER:—You won't deny it?

A. I have no opinion on it because I do not remember it.

Q. Are you so in the habit of handing out \$25 to ladies that you do not recall that occasion?

A. No, I cannot recall doing it to anybody.

Q. But you do not deny it? All right.

COUNSEL:—Now, she also said that she belonged to some study groups in Ottawa and study groups where Communism and Marxism were studied. At page 818 the question is:—

Q. Adams was the leader of that group in Ottawa here?

A. Yes.

Is that true or false? Was she telling the truth when she said that under oath or not?

A. I do not remember being the leader of any group here. I remember meeting socially occasionally and discussing books, as I have told you already, but I do not recall being the leader of any group.

Q. That is not my question. My question is that Miss Willsher testified here that she was a member of a study group on Communism in Ottawa, and the question was asked her:—

Q. Adams was the leader of that group in Ottawa here?

A. Yes.

My question is was she telling the truth when she said that under oath or not?

A. I do not know.

Q. You do not deny it?

A. I do not know.

COMMISSIONER:—He means he will not deny it.

THE WITNESS:—Is that your interpretation of "I do not know", Mr. Ahearn?

MR. AHEARN:—May I speak to my client?

COMMISSIONER:—Yes.

At this point a recess was given to enable the witness and his counsel to consult in private. On resumption no further answer was made by the witness.

The examination then proceeded:—

Q. How often did you attend these study group meetings in Ottawa?

A. Any gathering where books were discussed which you insist on calling a study group meeting that I attended, was fairly infrequently; I do not know — half a dozen perhaps.

Q. Where would they be held?

A. Somebody's house.

Q. Whose house?

A. I do not remember now.

Q. Do you mean to say you were in Ottawa from September 1940, to December 1944, and you do not remember the name of a single place? Is that what you are asking us to believe?

A. I beg your pardon?

Q. Is that what you are asking us to believe?

A. I remember there was discussion of some books once or twice at my own place. I do not remember specifically anybody's place.

Q. You do not remember a single other person who was present at any of those houses on any of those occasions?

A. No.

Q. Perhaps you remember the books that were discussed, do you?

A. No, I do not. I was trying to think.

Q. So your mind is a complete blank?

A. It is some times.

Q. Except that there were those occasions that some of them were at your house, that is all you can tell us about it?

A. Yes; it is some time ago.

Q. I did not ask you that; that is all you can tell us about it?

A. Yes.

Q. Miss Willsher, under oath, was put the following questions:—

Q. What was the qualification?—

meaning the qualification to belong to these groups.

A. Interest in the same kind of study.

Q. Interest in Communistic writings and teachings?

A. Yes.

Did she say the truth when she said that under oath? Or did she not?

A. I do not think there was any qualification to come and discuss a book at any meetings that I was ever at.

Q. Would you say there was a common interest in studying Communism or matters pertaining to Communism in those groups?

A. I would not say Communism; I would say politics.

Q. That would include Communism?

A. Include Communism, Conservatism and everything else.

Q. I did not ask you about Conservatism or anything else. It did Communism, is that right?

A. It would include Communism with other subjects.

Q. Then she said at page 768 that there was a treasurer appointed to collect money at these meetings, and this question was put to her:—

Q. You said the treasurer changed, that it was not always the same person.

A. If somebody went away and somebody else became treasurer. There was no stated —

Is that right?

A. I do not recall any treasurer, no.

Q. You deny it?

A. I do not recall that there was any treasurer.

Q. You were asked if you deny it?

A. I cannot make it clearer than that.

Q. You can either deny it or not.

A. I say I do not remember that there was one.

Q. Therefore you cannot deny it?

A. (No audible answer.)

Q. You do not remember well enough to be in a position to deny?

A. I won't deny it categorically, no.

Q. I ask you the question again, Mr. Adams. Did you, or did you not pay \$25.00 to Miss Willsher?

A. I do not recall doing it.

Q. Did you ask Miss Willsher to do anything on any occasion?

A. I cannot recall asking her to do anything on any occasion.

Q. Will you deny that on some occasion you did make a request of Miss Willsher which involved her giving information in connection with the office where she worked?

A. I cannot recollect what —

Q. Will you just listen to the question?

The reporter read:—

Will you deny that on some occasion you did make a request of Miss Willsher which involved her giving information in connection with the office where she worked?

THE WITNESS:—My answer is, I do not recall ever asking her for information.

Q. But you will not deny that you did?

A. I cannot go further than that.

Q. Did you ever meet her on street corners in Ottawa?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Did you ever meet her on street corners and invite her to board your car in order that she would give information to you in Ottawa?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Did you ever try to obtain information from her while you were in Montreal, for instance?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Is it not a fact that when you invited her to go to Montreal you made your invitation to her through Miss Agatha Chapman in Ottawa?

A. I do not recall inviting her to come to Montreal.

Q. Is it not a fact she went to Montreal to visit you?

A. I do not believe she ever came to visit my house.

Q. You said that this morning.

A. I said she visited my house; I did not say she came to Montreal to do that. That is an entirely different thing. She was in Montreal.

Q. You had a car, Mr. Adams?

A. I had, yes.

Q. You had a car?

A. Yes.

Q. When you lived in Ottawa you had a car?

A. Yes.

Q. And when you went to live in Montreal?

A. Yes.

Q. On the first of January, 1945?

A. Yes.

Q. You brought your car to Montreal?

A. Yes.

Q. And when you lived in Montreal you came to Ottawa occasionally?

A. Very seldom.

Q. You came four or five times, as a matter of fact.

A. It is possible, but very seldom.

Q. You saw Miss Chapman when you came?

A. Not necessarily. I do not recall whether I did or not.

Q. You phoned Miss Chapman from Montreal?

A. It is possible; I do not recall.

Q. Try to be very careful about that, Mr. Adams. You phoned Miss Chapman from Montreal?

A. It is possible; I do not recall it.

Q. For what purpose would it be possible?

A. I cannot recall now.

Q. You cannot recall. You cannot give any explanation?

A. Possibly to let her know I was going to be in town.

Q. When you came to Ottawa also, you saw Miss Willsher.

A. I do not recall seeing her since I moved to Montreal.

Q. Do you want us to believe that she is not telling the truth when she says she saw you?

A. I cannot go further than saying I do not recall seeing her since I moved to Montreal.

Q. Did you ever take her in your car?

A. It is possible I have picked her up on the street and driven her home. I have done that to lots of people.

Q. This is her evidence under oath, on page 810:—

Q. How did you meet him thereafter?

A. He came to Ottawa sometimes.

Q. How often?

A. About three or four times, as far as I can remember.

Q. Four or five times?

A. No, I think three or four. I don't remember.

Q. How would you get in touch with him then?

A. Miss Chapman told me that he was coming.

Q. Every time?

A. Yes.

Q. She would phone you?

A. Yes, or if I happened to see her anywhere.

Q. Or if you would meet her?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell us exactly what procedure was followed.

A. She would telephone, or tell me if she happened to see me somewhere.

Q. Miss Chapman would telephone you and tell you she had to see you somewhere?

A. No. She might telephone me and tell me that he was coming, or she might meet me somewhere in the normal course of events.

Q. That Adams was coming?

A. Yes.

Q. And then?

A. I would arrange to meet him.

Q. How would you arrange to meet him?

A. He usually was driving, and he would just pick me up.

Q. That is the way the meeting would take place, but how did you arrange to meet him; through whom? How would you contact him?

A. I didn't contact him; Miss Chapman just told me he was coming and she apparently did the contacting.

What do you think that we are to believe, that Miss Willsher invented all that?

A. I think she has grossly misconstrued a few casual meetings. I certainly am — I feel certain — I have not come to Ottawa from Montreal in my car several times. I may have come once in the car, that is all.

Q. What about this, for she has given very precise details at the foot of page 811:—

Q. She told you he would be in his car at a certain place at a certain time?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were to be there?

A. Yes.

Q. And what time of the day would these meetings take place?

A. After work. I think the early evening, as far as I can remember.

Q. And where would they take place? Any corner? Any place on the street?

A. I remember at the corner of Lisgar and Bank, at the street car stop. I don't remember any other place, just there or somewhere like that.

Q. And what would take place then?

A. I would just talk to him, or he would ask me questions.

Q. And you would convey the information he was asking for?

A. Yes.

Do you suppose, for one moment, that this is misconstruction, or invention, or the truth?

A. No, I think it is misconstruction.

Q. Of what?

A. Of casual conversation.

Q. Why would you make such an appointment at night at the corner of streets for the purposes of holding casual conversations?

A. I do not recall doing it; I admit it may have happened once or twice that I had some occasion to let Miss Chapman know that I was going to be in Ottawa, and that I would like to see Miss Willsher. I do not know.

Q. Why would you want to see Miss Willsher?

A. For social reasons.

Q. So you telephoned to Miss Chapman from Montreal to say that you were going to be in town, and would like to see Miss Willsher, just for social reasons?

A. I do not say that. I said: I did not recall the circumstances that Miss Willsher apparently recites — that I think she has misconstrued a few casual meetings; that it is not impossible that I may have met her and picked her up some time on the street.

Q. Yes?

A. But I did not say what you said.

Q. Yes, why would you give her money?

A. I cannot think of any reason.

Q. What?

A. I do not know.

It is interesting to compare the statements with regard to Adams in Zabotin's note-book, set out at the beginning of this section, with Adams' own evidence. The notes say that the use of Adams as an agent was on the suggestion of Sam Carr. As to Carr, Adams said:—

Q. Ever heard of Sam Carr? If you did not, just say "no".

A. I think I have heard of him.

Q. Well, tell us what you heard about him?

A. I think he is one of the Communists.

Q. What is his position in the Communist party?

A. I do not know.

Q. Where did you meet him?

A. I never met him.

Q. How long have you known him?

A. I have not known him.

Q. How do you know he is connected with the Communist Party?

A. I told you I think I have seen his name.

Q. Where would you have seen his name as being connected with the Communist Party?

A. It could have been in a newspaper.

Q. What newspaper would that be?

A. Any one.

Q. Any one in particular? Any one in particular that you have in mind?

A. No.

Zabotin also states in his notebook that Benning is "*contacting with*" Martin (Zheveinov of TASS). As to Ernst (Adams) Zabotin says he is "*contacting with*" Foster (Benning), and the same Russian word is used in each case. It will be remembered also that in Motinov's notes of meetings in connection with the matter of the false passport Section V both these men are mentioned as having been connected with that matter in 1944.

As to Adams "*contacting with Foster*" (Benning) Zabotin's notes state also that "*Both live in Ottawa*". That was true between July, 1942, and December, 1944. Adams was transferred to Montreal at the end of December, 1944, having been doing work for the Industrial Development Bank since the previous October. The significance of the entry of Decem-

ber 8, 1944, in Lieutenant-Colonel Motinov's notes, previously referred to, becomes plain. It was necessary, in view of Adams' permanent removal to Montreal to provide a new "contact" for him in the place of Benning. It was still deemed advisable, however, that Adams should himself still "contact" Kathleen Willsher, and for that purpose he drove to Ottawa from time to time.

It is also significant that in the small telephone directory or "finder" which Benning left on his desk, Adams' name and telephone number were entered. Benning said this entry was made by his predecessor, but Benning admitted that he "ran into" Adams "several times when I was in Economics and Statistics" (Department of Munitions and Supply) and that "I also ran into him up at Fortune" (a ski resort).

Gerson testified that he had met Adams at Benning's house in Ottawa.

Miss Willsher testified that when she attended the study group in Ottawa in 1942, of which Adams was the leader, Benning was also a member of that group.

Adams' evidence as to his association with Benning (as is that of Benning) is typically evasive and designed to put their contacts on a purely casual basis. Adams testified:—

Q. I will come back to that later. Do you know this gentleman here, Exhibit 121? (*Photograph of Benning*).

A. Yes, I think so. I have seen him around the yard at the barracks, lately.

Q. What is his name?

A. I think he is the ski instructor for the Recreational Association.

Q. When did you see this man for the first time? Was it at the barracks, do you say?

A. No, I met him at Camp Fortune.

Q. How often?

A. Perhaps two or three times.

Q. When did you first meet him?

A. Three or four years ago.

Q. Was not he a member of this study group in Ottawa?

A. I do not recall that he was at any meeting of any kind that I was ever at.

Q. You do not recall?

A. No.

Q. Is that Scott Benning?

A. I was not sure of his name, whether it was Bennett or Benning.

Q. It is not Bennett, it is Benning, Scott Benning, who was present at those meetings you had — the study group meetings you had in Ottawa?

A. You mean the meetings where we were discussing books?

Q. Where you were discussing Communism and Marxism.

A. I do not remember any other people there.

Q. You do not remember any others; do you remember one?

A. I just said I do not remember any people there.

In Zabotin's notes above referred to, the statement is also made of Adams that:—

he works in the Joint _____ of Military
_____ (U.S.A. and Canada) co-ordination. He
gives detailed information about all kinds of industries,
plans for the future. Supplies detailed accounts of
meetings.

In the Russian original of this document, in the two places left blank in the translation, are two abbreviations, one of which is further mutilated and in part missing as a result of a tear in the paper. These two sets of characters might refer to any of several words, which have been placed before us, but as no translation of these two words can be adopted with any confidence we consider it advisable to use blanks as above.

It is therefore not clear to which of the many bodies with which Adams was connected that Col. Zabotin refers. The evidence shows, however, that Adams was in a position where "information about all kinds of industries" and minutes of various committee meetings were available to him. Koudriavtzev reported that Adams gave these materials daily and was a "good worker".

We have no doubt on all the evidence but that Zabotin found in Adams a convinced Communist who considered the communication of information to Russia in line with his ardent beliefs as a member of the Party. We unhesitatingly accept Kathleen Willsher's evidence with regard to him, and indeed Adams does not deny that evidence. He, like Agatha Chapman, merely does not "recall" the events to which Willsher deposed. That, of course, is incredible. Such evidence is typical of a mind which recalls the facts perfectly, and, while not prepared to admit, takes refuge in the fancied security of an assumed inability to remember. This is capable of demonstration: Adams was a member of certain study groups in connection with his work in the Bank. Small groups, made up of members of the staff, were encouraged by the Bank. Adams' memory as to the personnel of these

groups during the same period as that in which he was a leader in the Communist study groups is much better. He said:—

Q. You will correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Adams, but I understand you had some study groups when you were at the Bank of Canada, in the Foreign Exchange Control Board?

A. That is right.

Q. But those conferences were held in Dominion offices?

A. You mean the study group meetings?

Q. Yes.

A. Yes.

Q. Not in residences?

A. No, they were held in the Board.

Q. In the Board Room?

A. In the Foreign Exchange Control Board building.

Q. And there was no collection made afterward?

A. No, there was no collection.

Q. They are to be differentiated from the other study groups which you have attended and to which you referred yesterday?

A. Yes, they are quite separate.

Q. And they are not the same persons who attended?

A. I don't recall any of the same persons being in both.

Q. Who attended these study groups; most of the officials, as we will call them—that is, in the Board Room?

A. Who attended the Board study group meetings?

Q. Yes.

A. In general they were the younger, second rank officers on the Board. There were three or four of them going at different times, so there would be a fairly large number of people involved.

Q. Could you give us a few names?

A. In the study groups?

Q. Yes.

A. I can remember that in the one I was in there were most, or not most; I guess about half the people in my own section that I can remember.

Q. And that would include how many persons?

A. In the study group?

Q. No; the one you remember.

A. From my own section?

Q. Yes.

A. Perhaps half a dozen.

Q. Of which you could give the names?

A. Yes.

As already pointed out, Adams also had associations with Benning, Chapman and Willsher, all of whom, as well as Fred Rose, were part of Zabotin's espionage organization.

In Adams' home in Montreal there was found a leaflet entitled *Withdraw Canada from the War* published in March, 1940, and signed *Political Committee Communist Party of Canada*; also a mimeographed letter dated December 12, 1939, containing *Speaker's Notes* on the Soviet-Finnish crisis. This letter is merely signed by the initials *J.W.* which, according to the evidence, was the *non-de-plume* of the underground headquarters of the Communist Party of Canada in Toronto. While the Party was not banned officially until June, 1940, the evidence shows that its leaders were already in hiding because of propaganda carried on by them in opposition to the war contrary to the then Defence of Canada Regulations. The following passage in the Speaker's Notes is underlined in ink:—

The vigorous fight for peace waged by the U.S.S.R. in which it represented the desires of the masses of the people of all countries, now takes on the form, in the conditions of the world war, of a vigorous class struggle against counter-revolutionary attempts to destroy the U.S.S.R.

As to these documents Adams gave the following evidence:—

Q. Do you know who *J.W.* is?

A. No.

Q. You have no idea?

A. No.

Q. Even under oath?

A. No.

Q. May I suggest that it is a symbol for the centre of the Communist Party in Toronto?

A. I do not know.

Q. Never heard of it?

A.

COMMISSIONER: Will you answer? You were asked a question.

THE WITNESS: No.

COUNSEL:

Q. You never heard of J.W.?

A. No.

Q. How many of these documents do you think you may have in your premises?

A. I have no idea.

Q. You may have them by the hundreds?

A. You mean this document?

Q. Like literature, the same kind of literature.

A. This kind of material?

Q. Yes.

A. I have quite a bit of it, I know, because I told you yesterday—

Q. From J.W.?

A. I do not know about that. I do not recall that, who is J.W.? I have no idea.

Q. What you mean to say is that you received correspondence from J.W. from time to time and you do not know who the man is?

A. No, I did not say I received correspondence from J.W. at all.

Q. We have evidence as to who J.W. was, and you say you do not know, and you received a document from him?

A. I did not say that I received the document from J.W. I do not know when I received it.

Q. My question is: Do you know who J.W. is?

A. No, I do not.

Like other witnesses as to whom we have made the same observation, Adams conducted himself in the witness box as though the fact of his political belief in Communism was something to be hidden. He assumed the attitude merely of a student of its "economics". This attitude is relevant as indicating, in our opinion, an awareness on his part that it was Communism in this country which had furnished Zabotin with his Canadian agents. His evasiveness on this subject indicates also, in our view, that he and the other persons who gave like evidence regarded Communism as containing an element foreign to legitimate political opinion in this country, namely belief in resort to force for the overthrow of government if those directing the Party should ultimately so direct. Willsher made this express admission. The belief in the necessity for concealment is illustrated by the following evidence given by Adams:—

Q. Is there anything secretive about being a Communist or being sympathetic to the Communist Party, or its ideas?

A. Anything secretive?

Q. Yes.

A. I do not know.

Q. I was wondering if it was any part of the tenets of that Party, that connection with the Party should be kept secret?

A. I do not know; not as far as I know.

Q. I was just wondering why you are not franker in the answers to your questions. I may say we have had in some cases the display of a similar attitude by some witnesses which makes me wonder if there is anything secretive about the organization.

A. I do not know.

Q. You do not know. Those study groups, were they secret?

A. If you are referring to the occasional social meetings and discussion of books that I have attended occasionally in years past, there was nothing secret about them.

Q. Some of the witnesses have told us that they were. You do not agree with that?

A. They may not be talking about the same thing that I am.

Q. I think they were. You do not agree with that?

A. No, I do not agree with it for the gatherings I am talking about.

Q. Is there any reason why a person who is a member of the Communist Party or sympathetic thereto would keep that fact secret from his employer?

A. I do not know, it would depend on the employer's attitude.

Q. For instance, did you ever tell anybody senior to you in the Dominion Government Service your views on the matter?

A. Nobody ever asked my views.

Q. I did not ask you that; I asked you if you ever told anybody?

A. I cannot recall that I did, for the reason I have just given.

Q. That reason is that you were not asked?

A. I considered any political views I might have a personal matter.

Q. Of course they are. So that so far as you are aware you never knew of any reason why any person who is a Communist or holds sympathetic views should keep the state of his mind secret?

A. No, I do not know of any reason.

Q. We have had some evidence, and I just wanted to know what you have to say about it, thank you.

Adams' library was literally full of Communist books, including such authors as Marx, Engels and Lenin. Yet except for Agatha Chapman no one of Adams' associates in his work, so far as the evidence shows, including that of Adams himself, knew he had any such views.

The material found in his possession indicates that he was an important member of the Labour-Progressive Party doing "research" for its leaders. One document reads:—

Draft Outline for Research in Province of Ontario; the following outline is intended as a starting point in the preparation of factual materials, statistics, summaries and memoranda of particular value to the Labor-Progressive Party M.P.P.s. Messrs. Salsberg and MacLeod. . . . This is a task of great political importance to our Party; it is necessary for our researchers to analyze reports and statistics in such a way as to bring out all the political and social implications. . . . Salsberg and MacLeod will, of course, discuss with our researchers from time to time, the special angles that might be pursued on particular subjects.

As to this Adams said:—

Q. We will mark as Exhibit 247-A a document entitled, *A draft outline for research in province of Ontario*. What was your purpose in preparing this in here?

A. I did not prepare it.

Q. Who did prepare it?

A. I don't know.

Q. Who put it in your book, Mr. Adams?

A. I put it in my book.

Q. Why did you put it in your book? What was your interest in that?

A. I don't recall now.

Q. Do you know Salsberg and MacLeod?

A. No.

Q. You have no idea who they are?

A. Yes, I have an idea who they are.

Q. All right: tell us who they are?

A. They are Labour-Progressive members of Parliament in the Ontario Legislature, I think.

Q. They are members of the Communist Party?

A. I don't know that.

Q. You have no idea?

A. I do; I have heard that they are members of the Labour-Progressive Party.

Q. I am afraid you will have to continue your reading. That is the best answer you can give on that question, is it?

A. Yes.

Q. It never came to your knowledge that Salsberg and MacLeod were Communists?

A. I don't think I ever heard of them before the Labour-Progressive Party came into existence.

Q. I did not hear that answer.

A. I say I don't think I had ever heard of them before the Labour-Progressive Party came into existence, so what they were before, I don't know.

Q. The document says, in the second paragraph:

In order of their importance, these subjects should be assigned to qualified individuals and groups who should immediately pursue the subject to a conclusion having in mind the possibility of a provincial government session being called before the end of the year.

You have no idea why that document was sent to you?

A. No.

Issues of such newspapers and periodicals as *The Clarion*, the *Mid-West Clarion*, *The Worker*, *The Canadian Tribune* and *National Affairs Monthly* were also included in Adams' library.

A Statesman with every means of observation wrote in 1937:—

A Communist is not only the holder of certain opinions; he is the pledged adept of a well-thought-out means of enforcing them. The anatomy of discontent and revolution has been studied in every phase and aspect, and a veritable drill book prepared in a scientific spirit for subverting all existing institutions. The method of enforcement is as much a part of the Communist faith as the doctrine itself. At first the time-honoured principles of Liberalism and Democracy are invoked to shelter the infant organism. Free speech, the right of public meeting, every form of lawful political agitation and constitutional right are paraded and asserted. Alliance is sought with every popular movement towards the left.

(Winston Churchill, "Great Contemporaries")

It is not surprising to find that Adams, as a well-trained Communist, had in his home a file headed *Civil Liberties*. This contained such material as the following:—

- (1) *Notes on the findings of the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities relating to the Communist Party*;
- (2) *Speakers' Notes No. 2 Issued by Education Department National Committee C.P., U.S.A.*, entitled *The Un-American Dies Committee*;
- (3) *The Trial of the Toronto Communists*, by F. R. Scott;
- (4) *Freedom of Speech*, by Carl Becker in an issue of *The Nation* of January, 1934;
- (5) *Armaments and Peace*, by Earl Browder

as well as other material. Adams was interested in civil liberties, but solely from the Communist point of view.

Among the books also in his possession were:—

- (1) *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Marx and Engels.
- (2) *State and Revolution* by Lenin.
- (3) *On the Road to Insurrection* by Lenin.
- (4) *What is to be Done* by Lenin.
- (5) *The Teachings of Karl Marx* by Lenin.

A number of passages are marked in pencil. A typical one reads:—

But the duty of a truly revolutionary party is not to proclaim an impossible renunciation of every sort of compromise, but to know throughout all compromises, in so far as such are inevitable, how to remain faithful to its principles, to its class, to its revolutionary goal; to its duty of preparing for the revolution and of educating the mass whom it must lead to victory.

(Nikolai Lenin: *On the Road to Insurrection*, published by The Communist Party of Great Britain, p. 12.)

The officers who conducted the search of Adams' residence reported that there were a great many other works of the same character.

In spite of all this Adams gave the following evidence:—

Q. Who published this *National Affairs*, Mr. Adams?

A. I think it is the Labour-Progressive Party.

Q. Again, what difference do you make between the Labour-Progressive Party and the Communist Party of Canada?

A. I understand that one does not exist at the present time, the Communist Party.

Q. Is that the only difference you make?

A. I do not know enough about it.

Q. Then in volume 6 of this exhibit, at page 194—do you know Jacques Duclos?

A. No.

Q. This is what he says:

Comrade Duclos concluded that the dissolution of the Communist Party of the United States reflected Comrade Browder's erroneous estimation of the post-war perspective. We did not follow the American example; on the contrary, the Communist Party being outlawed by the King Government, we established the Labour-Progressive Party.

Does that help you in any way?

A. No, that is one man's statement. I do not have any opinion on it.

Q. This *National Affairs* is being published by the National Committee of the Labour-Progressive Party and in this issue you have an article by Fred Rose, whom you know, and you have also another one by Tim Buck, both of them being definitely Communists to your knowledge; are they?

A. No, they are not Communists to my knowledge now.

Q. That is the answer you care to give on that?

A. I think it is the answer to your question.

Q. Would the possible overthrow of an existing government be included in your definition of economics?

A. No, I do not think it would.

Q. That took a little consideration on your part, I notice.

A. Most questions here do.

We think that Willsher was unquestionably right in her estimate of Adams as "an ardent Communist". We think also, on the evidence, that as such he was ready material for Col. Zabotin's purposes.

It is very significant that Adams was in February, 1946, apparently on the alert for possible trouble and had a private code of his own arranged with his wife, by which, when he was away from home (and he was away frequently in the course of his work) she could give him warning of it. It

was shown in evidence that the day on which, under Order-in-Council P.C. 6444, his house in Montreal was searched and on which he himself was detained at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, he there received at telegram from his wife reading:—

Helen's baby dying. Will send you further word.

Sally.

Adams admitted that there never was any such person as "Helen" or "Helen's baby". While Adams' wife was the sender of the telegram her name is Josepha. At first she denied authorship but later admitted it. This incident adds some significance to the message to Willsher which took her to Montreal in September, 1945, because Adams was "going away". He would appear to have postponed that event while still cherishing the intention. Needless to say we do not believe his explanation of the telegram:—

Q. Would you care to explain that telegram?

A. Sure. Ever since I have started travelling, which is a good many years ago, my wife and I have had an arrangement whereby if she is ever in trouble and wants me to come home and does not want to talk about the whole thing in a telegram, she simply sends me a telegram that Helen's baby is sick.

We are satisfied on the evidence that Adams was an important unit in Zabotin's organization. If, as Col. Zabotin states in his notes, and there is no reason for not accepting the statement fully, Adams "gave materials daily" and was "a good worker", the amount of information given by him to the Russians must have been very great. The items on Zabotin's mailing list of January 5, 1945, which according to Gouzenko's evidence covers only one of several batches of mail despatched to Moscow by Col. Zabotin during that month, are an indication.

We are satisfied on the evidence that Adams was an important unit in Zabotin's organization.

Accordingly, being required by the terms of Order in Council P.C. 411 to "inquire into and report upon which public officials and other persons in positions of trust or otherwise have communicated, directly or indirectly, secret and confidential information, the disclosure of which might be inimical to the safety and interests of Canada, to the agents of a Foreign Power and the facts relating to and the circumstances surrounding such communication", we are of opinion that Adams did communicate such information. So far as disclosed by the evidence, the surrounding facts and circumstances are discussed above.

SECTION III. 6

PF 603469 [KATHLEEN MARY WILLSHER, Ottawa]

Miss Willsher was an employee of the Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom at Ottawa. She came to Canada in 1930 at the age of twenty-five as a stenographer. In due course she was promoted and in 1944 she became assistant registrar, having been in the registry division of the office since 1939. She is a graduate of the London School of Economics and speaks French, German and some Russian. Her duties as assistant registrar involved the entering or registration of incoming and outgoing letters and telegrams, by reason of which she had access, with a very few exceptions, to all files containing documents of a highly secret nature.

On June 17, 1939, she signed the following document.

CERTIFICATE

I have read the Official Secrets Act of the United Kingdom 1911 and 1920 (1 & 2 Geo. 5 C.28 and 10 & 11 Geo. 5 C.75) and have taken note of the penalties provided in respect of their infringement.

(sgd) Kathleen M. Willsher,
17 June, 1939.

By Order in Council P.C. 1860 dated the 17th March 1941 *The Official Secrets Act 1939* (Canada) was made to apply to employees, in Canada, of the Government of the United Kingdom.

On Zabotin's mailing list of January 5, 1945, there are two items, Nos. 109 and 110 being "copy" and "abbreviated copy", respectively, of letters from the Canadian Ambassador at Moscow, Mr. Dana Wilgress, to the Canadian Prime Minister of November 3, and October 11, 1944. The mailing list describes each as "Secr." and credits "Ellie" as the person furnishing the material. Gouzenko testified that "Ellie" was the cover name for Kathleen Willsher at the Russian Embassy, and that she was one of Zabotin's agents. Gouzenko said that there was at the Embassy a file on Willsher prepared by one of the "door-guards" at the Embassy, one Lieut. Technical Gouseev. This file was kept in the safe in the room where Gouzenko worked and contained a biography and other information with regard to her. Gouzenko also brought with him the following cable from "The Director" in Moscow to Zabotin, dated August 24, 1945:

12200

24.8.45

To Grant

Reference No. 248.

1. In telegram No. 8267 of June 20th you were given instructions on the inadmissibility of disclosing our agency network to the Ambassador.

The handing over to the ambassador by you of the Wilgress report of 3.11.44 concerning financial credits to ensure trade between the USSR and Great Britain after the war, in the very form in which it was received, has uncovered the existence of our source on the object of ELLI.

Furthermore, the translator of the embassy got acquainted with the document inasmuch as the document was in the local language.

2. With regard to urgent political and economic questions affecting the mutual relations of Canada and Great Britain with the USSR, you must keep the Embassy informed, but indicating only that the source is authentic, without revealing to him either source itself or the places from which the information was obtained.
3. The information should be handed over after it has been already prepared to this effect, deleting all passages which might disclose the secret source.
4. All questions on which you are informing the ambassador you are under obligation to bring to my attention in the comments to your informational reports.

Director

21.8

Grant

25.8.45.

From this telegram it appears that Zabotin had given Zaroubin, the Ambassador in Ottawa, item 109 above referred to, and that the latter had had it translated into Russian by one of the staff of the Embassy not on Zabotin's own staff. This was contrary to Moscow's policy of keeping its espionage, diplomatic, commercial, and secret police, activities secret, the one from the other. This is the "inadmissibility" of the act on the part of Zabotin.

The way in which Willsher entered upon her espionage activities is interesting. She was a member of the Communist or Labour-Progressive Party of Canada and had been for a long time. In 1942 she met Agatha Chapman who invited her to join a "study group" for the purpose of studying Marxist literature. She did so and in this group found, in addition to Chapman, Eric Adams, Benning and one Luxton, an employee, since deceased, of one of the Departments of Government. This group with some others who were also in the Civil Service met at various homes at intervals of three weeks until Adams left for Montreal at the end of 1944. Willsher said that the qualification for inclusion in this study group was interest in Communistic writings and teachings. Her own interest goes back some ten years. She joined the Labour Progressive Party in 1936. It was then the Communist Party of Canada. She paid a monthly due to the party through a study group similar to the one she joined in 1942. The earlier group lasted from 1934 to 1939.

In 1935 Willsher met Fred Rose at the study group she was then attending. As to Rose she testified:

- Q. Is he the first one who suggested you could contribute to the promotion of the Soviet Government by giving him in general terms information of value which passed through your hands in the office, the High Commissioner's office?
- A. He didn't say "Soviet Government". He said the Canadian party, the Canadian Communist Party.
- Q. Just what did he say to you?
- A. That the Party would be very glad to have some information sometimes in order that their policy—to affect public opinion—the sort of facts they could have. That is all I know.
- Q. Do I understand you, Miss Willsher, to say that Mr. Rose in 1935 suggested to you that you should furnish, from your sources of information in the High Commissioner's Office, information to him?
- A. He just said any general ideas I might have about things. Nothing ever suggested about giving him data. He said it would be of value to the Party in formulating its program.
- Q. That is not what I understood you to say a few moments ago. Just tell us, please, what Mr. Rose did suggest to you?
- A. That I could give him some general ideas of what was going on.
- Q. What do you mean by "general ideas of what was going on"?
- A. They were pursuing a policy of a united front.

Q. Who were?

A. The Communist Party was—and that facts pointing towards that, it would help to know if there was likely to be one or not.

Q. What facts, now?

A. I don't know.

Q. You understood Mr. Rose at the time?

A. He didn't ask for anything specific.

Q. I didn't ask you that. You understood him at the time, didn't you?

A. Yes, any general information.

Q. Just a moment, and just answer my questions. You understood Mr. Rose at the time; is that so?

A. I understood him at the time.

Q. You understood what he said to you at the time?

A. Yes. That is what he said.

Q. And you were quite clear on what he said to you at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. That was 1935?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you want us to understand that Mr. Rose was asking you for original ideas, or information that you might obtain?

A. Well, a general view of the information; not specific details at all.

Q. That is information to which you would have access at your employment?

A. Yes.

Q. So then, to be quite clear about it, you understood Mr. Rose quite clearly at the time to suggest to you that he or his Party would be glad to have from you information which you might obtain from the High Commissioner's Office in the course of your employment?

A. Yes.

Q. And did Mr. Rose attend only one of these meetings, or did he go frequently?

A. I have seen him more than once, but he was not a regular member.

Q. He went to these meetings where you were?

A. Sometimes; occasionally, but he did not live in Ottawa, that I was aware of.

Q. But he came to Ottawa occasionally?

A. Yes.

A. And he knew these meetings were going on?

A. I suppose so.

Q. And he knew what date and at what place?

A. Yes, but not through me. I don't know how he got there at all. He just was there.

Q. Miss Willsher, you recognized, I suppose, when Mr. Rose made that suggestion to you, that he was suggesting an improper thing for you to do?

A. Well, I did, but I felt that I should contrive to contribute something towards the helping of this policy, because I was very interested in it. I found it very difficult, and yet I felt I should try to help.

Q. Then you appreciated that from the standpoint of your relationship to your employer it was an improper suggestion. That is right?

A. Yes. I also felt that I had something I should contribute.

Q. Would it be right to put it this way; that you felt that there was a higher law, owing to your, let us say, political convictions?

A. Yes. It was a struggle; it always is a struggle.

Q. You cannot serve two masters without a struggle; but what I want to put to you, Miss Willsher, is this. You said this group where this suggestion was first made to you was a broad group. If you recognized Mr. Rose's suggestion as an improper suggestion, and this was a broad group, Mr. Rose would not be making his suggestion to you in a loud voice so that all the members of this broad group could hear?

A. No. As I say, it would be addressed to me. It would not be addressed to anyone else.

Q. Did you give your answer immediately to Mr. Rose, when he made that request to you?

A. No; I gave it some consideration.

Q. And when did you give him your answer?

A. I couldn't exactly say.

Q. How long after, about? At the next meeting?

A. That I don't know. It would not be a great deal of time; perhaps a month.

Q. And you gave him an affirmative answer. You accepted?

A. Yes. I found it very difficult, and yet I felt that I was trying to—

Q. And from then on you conveyed to him whatever information you thought he wanted to obtain from the Department in which you were employed?

A. Yes. There was not a great deal, as a matter of fact.

Q. How would you convey that information to him?

A. Just telling him.

Q. Where?

A. At this house, and I don't know where else I saw him.

Q. At his house?

A. No, at this house; Mrs. _____'s house.

Q. That is Mrs. _____?

A. Yes. I don't know where else, particularly, unless it might have been at Miss _____'s apartment. He went there sometimes.

Q. Did you arrange to meet him regularly?

A. No; just occasionally I saw him. There was not any regular arrangement. I suppose I was invited to a place and he would be there, but it wasn't very often. There was a great deal of time in between. It didn't seem that I was of very great importance.

Q. Were you going to places where you would meet Mr. Rose periodically, or would expect to meet him periodically?

A. No. I mean he must have known when he wanted to meet me, and I suppose it was arranged, but I was not aware of any regularity or any setting of a future date. There was nothing like that at all.

Q. But you did in fact meet him from time to time?

A. A few times. It wasn't very many times.

Q. For how long?

A. I suppose till about sometime in 1939, after which I haven't seen him since.

Q. You have not seen him since 1939?

A. No, not myself.

Q. And how often—?

A. As I say, it was periodical; not very often, that I saw him in that time.

Q. That would be in something over three years?

A. It would be three years.

Q. And how often would you see him in that period of time?

A. It might be six months. It certainly was not very often.

Q. Would he require any type of information?

A. No.

Q. He left it to you to decide what was the information that you could give?

A. When I saw him he might ask me a question or two. He would not ask me to prepare stuff or anything like that.

Q. What kind of question would he ask you?

A. That is what I can't remember now. Things about the united front, the way events were going, I suppose; the attitude towards the Spanish war.

Q. Whose attitude?

A. Well, it would be the attitude of the British, I suppose.

Q. Of the British Government?

A. Yes.

Q. And how would you have that information?

A. Well, there might be some reference to it somewhere, and there might not be anything. I mean, it might be mentioned in some despatch; something might be mentioned.

Q. What else do you remember that he asked you about? What other information?

A. I do not remember all this time—I only know it was along the particular lines.

Q. About what?

A. I do not remember any details along certain lines.

Q. Can you tell us whatever information, generally speaking, he wanted you to gather?

A. Well, the attitude towards Germany and Italy in view of the crisis that was developing.

Q. This information that you were able to give him, how did you get that, from things that you copied in the course of your work, or typed?

A. Things I am bound to read through in the course of work. They are not things—there was no record—just things I happened to remember.

Q. What I am asking you, Miss Willsher, is what things?

A. If it is—

Q. Do not let us both speak at once. You would be typing telegrams and letters at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. And would it be things arising out of the documents that you actually typed, such as telegrams and letters?

A. Probably would be.

Q. That would be one thing?

A. Yes.

Q. Anything else?

A. No, there was not any other source.

Q. What about the files that were in your office?

A. I was not doing the files.

Q. Were you reading the files, the things that were in the files?

A. Only the files with the letters, not general.

Q. Were you reading the letter files?

A. I might have a file if I was doing a letter on that file.

Q. Would you read that file?

A. Not necessarily; I might.

Q. Sometimes you might?

A. Sometimes I might.

Q. For the purpose of seeing if there was anything there you could pass on to Mr. Rose?

A. I had that in view.

Q. You had that in view?

A. Yes.

Q. And you would make notes?

A. No.

Q. You just charged your mind with it?

A. Charged my mind.

Q. And you reported to him orally?

A. Yes.

Q. On all occasions?

A. Yes.

There came a time there was a change in the channel by which information from Willsher was communicated to the Russians. Adams became substituted for Rose. Willsher testified:

Q. Who else asked you to get information from the same source for the benefit of the Party or the Soviet Union?

A. Mr. Adams.

Q. When did he ask you? That is the same person whom you have already identified?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you conclude giving Mr. Rose any information?

A. During 1939.

Q. Why did you stop?

A. Because I did not see him any more. The war came and I did not see anybody. I do not know of any time when he said, "This is the last time I will see you", or anything. It just sort of faded out.

Q. Those meetings stopped also in 1939?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you not say it was in 1942 that you received a similar request from Mr. Adams?

A. I think it is 1942; it may be 1943.

Q. When was the first meeting you had with Adams?

A. I do not know whether it was the first or second; I was not aware there was ever a specific point made that he had to meet me.

Q. For how long did you continue to give information to Adams?

A. Until about last September, the last time I saw him.

Q. From 1942 to last—

A. 1945.

Q. September of 1945?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened then?

A. I do not know, I just have not seen him since that, that is all.

Q. While in Ottawa how would you convey information to him?

A. I might see him at the study group.

Q. That is where you would give it to him?

A. Before or after the meeting.

Q. And then—

A. I did not see him very often.

Q. Did you ever have occasion to drive with him?

A. No, not until he had gone to Montreal.

Q. That is when he had gone?

A. Because he drove to Ottawa and had his car.

Q. So while he was in Ottawa you would convey information at these meetings?

A. Yes.

A. Did you ever telephone to him?

A. No.

Q. Why?

A. I did not telephone him; I have never been asked to telephone to him; I do not take the initiative.

Q. Why?

A. I do not know; I never have taken the initiative.

Q. Why would not you take the initiative?

A. Unless I was asked, I did not go out and direct the thing. If he wanted something he could ask, but I did not know or say anything.

Q. Where did he ask?

A. As I say, at the meetings.

Q. And any information he was asking for you would try to obtain that in the course of your employment?

A. Yes, but he generally just asked me a question or two and I answered them then. I did not have to go and do anything about it. It was just anything I happened to remember.

Q. You were in a better position, so far as access to information was concerned, at that time than you were in 1939?

A. Yes, I suppose so.

Q. Well, you were?

A. Yes.

Q. All incoming and outgoing documents, except the ones that might be kept by a particular officer, passed through your hands or were available to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you tell us what Adams said the first time he asked you to give confidential information; how did he ask you?

A. Well, he said that they wanted—I was given to believe that the policy of the Party was that they wanted the war to be—the Soviet Union was in the war and they wanted—

Q. They wanted what?

A. The war to go ahead and for there to be a second front and did I know anything about that sort of thing because they said that the policy in Canada—there might be a change in public opinion—that we must make the war effort go ahead and—

Q. In what way did he ask you that?

A. Well, for any sort of—

Q. That is not an ordinary question to ask a person. You explained the occasion when Rose was asking for information, that you had to go through certain difficulties before you made up your mind?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you have the same difficulties when the request came from Adams?

A. Yes.

Q. Why?

A. Because it always is difficult for me yet I feel it is expected of me I should do something. It is not easy to explain.

Q. Well, I would like to understand it a little more clearly. Do you mean, Miss Willsher, that by becoming a member of the Communist Party you are expected to do what you are asked to do regardless of any obligation you may have in any other direction; is that what you mean?

A. That is the sort of thing, yes.

A. And what Mr. Adams asked you in 1942, whatever it was, it was that he wanted you to supply him with information you could get from your office of employment?

A. Which I felt was relevant to any question he might ask regarding the war effort. That was, as I say, the interest of the Party at that time; it was to—

Q. To get it in as simple language as possible, the interest of the Party at that time was whatever would be in the interests of the Soviet Union, was it not?

A. Well, to make plain the unity of the allies.

Q. I want you to answer my question. I am asking you as to whether what was in the interest of the Party was whatever would be in the interest of the Soviet Union. Is that a fair way of putting it?

A. Well, I suppose they would want them to have the same interests at that time.

Q. That is the way you understood it, in any event?

A. Yes.

Q. What Mr. Adams asked you to obtain from the office of your employers would be information you thought would be of interest to the Soviet Union?

A. He did not put it like that. He said the Party policy is to do this, and they would like information, but he never mentioned the Soviet Union.

Q. I see.

A. It was always as a member of the Party, it was the Party's policy to support the maintenance of allied unity which included the Soviet Union.

Q. And therefore he was not satisfied to leave the support of the allies to the allies themselves, he wanted you to get some special information from your office? That is right? He was asking you to get information from your office?

A. We were allies.

Q. Mr. Adams was asking you to try to get information from your office of employment?

A. Yes.

Q. To give to him?

A. Yes.

Q. And do I understand that the information you would get from your office would be such information as you thought would be of interest or of value to the Soviet Union?

A. I did not think of the Soviet Union; I thought of the Canadian Party.

Q. You thought of the Canadian Communist Party?

A. The Party's policy.

Q. What plan or what idea did you have in mind in selecting this information or that information to pass on to Mr. Adams?

A. He asked questions. That was the basis on which he asked me.

Q. I am asking you. How would you determine in your mind what information was of interest to the Party? I am asking you, would it be information which you thought would be of interest to the Soviet Union?

A. No, I did not think of it in that way.

Q. How did you cull out the information, on what principle did you work?

A. I did not think about it a great deal. If he asked me a question, I tried to answer it.

Q. If he asked you a question, if he said to you, "I want you to get this particular information," you would try to get it, of course?

A. Yes.

Q. That would be easy; you would know what you were looking for?

A. Yes.

Q. Well, did it always arise in that way, that Mr. Adams asked you to get particular information?

A. Yes, usually; yes, it was particular, not in the sense of detail, but a particular subject, I suppose—

Q. For instance, if somebody was visiting in this country, he might ask you to get what information you could on that subject?

A. Yes. I cannot think of any case where that happened, though. It always seemed to me quite logical the things he asked.

Q. What I am trying to understand for my own part is what things he did ask. I am asking you if he asked you to get information on particular subjects?

A. There was the financial angle.

Q. That was one particular subject that he asked you to get information about?

A. Yes.

Q. I suppose there were other particular subjects were there?

A. Yes, he asked if I thought—he asked once or twice if I thought the second front would start some time, if I thought all our efforts were being made and it was likely to come soon. That was in a general way. Actually when it did come he had not asked me for some time.

Q. Not what you thought, but what information you could obtain in the Commissioner's Office?

A. Yes.

Q. In addition to these particular subject matters did you have a sort of roving commission to get any information that you thought might interest Mr. Adams?

A. No, not particularly.

Q. You never obtained any information except what Mr. Adams specifically asked you for?

A. Yes.

Q. It was always that he gave you—

A. Along the lines.

Q. Just a minute. He gave you jobs to do, did he?

A. More or less, yes.

Q. Suppose for instance, that Mr. Adams asked you for information on a particular subject. Would you just try to look up the documents in your office on that subject and pass on the information to Mr. Adams? Is that the way it worked?

A. He would ask me and usually it was answered at the time. I do not think there was any looking through a particular file; it was just anything I might be aware of in answering the questions he put.

Q. In any event you gave him such information from time to time.

A. Yes.

Q. May I suggest that, for instance, he asked you for information regarding the friendship between the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

A. Yes.

Q. That was discussed?

A. Yes.

Q. He asked you to supply information in that regard?

A. Yes, and I did not know—

Q. What?

A. I did not get any.

Q. You tried to supply some?

A. I think of various things but I can think of no information on that line. Very often I had no answer because I did not know.

Q. Did he question you on the office organization, the staff and the various functions of the people working in the High Commissioner's Office?

A. Yes, in a general sense. It was how big it was and the sort of subjects it would deal with, and I gathered he was getting information of that sort on embassies and consulates. I do not know why, but I think—

Q. You can guess, perhaps?

A. Not particularly. I was never told why things were—

Q. You said that he was trying to obtain data about the various embassies?

A. I am merely making that statement myself; I did not know.

Q. You had that impression from the various questions he asked you?

A. I would think that we would not be of any more interest than some of the other offices. I could not make that statement of fact because I did not know.

Q. I want to have that answered; did he—

A. He asked me for information about our functions and our size, and that is really all I know on that subject.

Q. To your knowledge was he trying to obtain information in regard to the organization of the staff and their functions in connection with other legations in Ottawa?

A. I cannot say.

Q. What?

A. I cannot say because I do not know.

Q. He limited it to information regarding the High Commissioner's Office? How would that affect the Canadian Communist Party?

A. I thought he would want to know, perhaps.

Q. Why?

A. I do not know why. I did not think very much about "Why". I had no thought it was not just what it appeared. I mean, I had not had any, not having been told anything.

Q. You remember speaking about the various subjects on which information was given by you to Adams. You remember a visit by Lord Keynes in Ottawa at the end of the year 1944?

A. It has been brought to my attention.

Q. There was some information required from you by Adams on that particular subject?

A. He wanted to know if the proposals, I think, had gone forward to the parties, but on the details he was in position to see himself, I think, because he did finance work.

Q. Where, in his office in the Bank of Canada?

A. I suppose so.

Q. I suppose he was getting information at both ends, at the Bank of Canada as far as the Canadian Government was concerned and from the High Commissioner's Office as far as England was concerned?

A. He would see those proposals because they would be put to the Government of Canada.

Q. Cannot you just tell us what you did, what you arranged with Adams?

A. He asked, I think, if the proposals had come and if they were going forward and there may have been a general idea of what they were, but I do not believe now that they were.

Q. What did you say when you got that request?

A. I think they had come; I said they had come.

Q. I asked you what you did?

A. I just thought of what I could remember because he asked me.

Q. Remember from what?

A. From any document I had seen.

Q. And you had seen some documents?

A. I think so, yes.

Q. There is a file on that subject matter in the High Commissioner's Office?

A. Yes.

Q. And you had read the file?

A. Yes.

Q. For the purpose of informing Mr. Adams?

A. No, but when he asked me I naturally knew something about it.

Q. Why did you read the file?

A. Because I would read all the files.

Q. Why?

A. Because we are supposed to know what we are filing.

Q. But you do not have to read all the contents of a paper in order to file it and put a number on it?

A. We do have to read quite a lot of it; we are expected to more or less.

Q. But you paid particular attention to that file, did you?

A. Not particular because I could not give any details.

Q. I am asking you in view of Mr. Adams' request you paid particular attention to that file?

A. I do not remember particularly, but I know he did ask about it.

Q. I did not ask you that at all. Mr. Adams asked you about that particular matter, did he?

A. Yes.

Q. And you knew there was a file in your office on that matter?

A. Yes.

Q. I am asking you if you went and read that file, and I understood you to say a little earlier that you had read it?

A. Yes.

Q. Then I asked you if you paid particular attention to it in view of Mr. Adams' request?

A. I do not remember, or whether I knew enough at the time to just tell him.

Q. Are you suggesting to us that when you got that request from Mr. Adams it was purely a casual matter and you just passed on what you happened to remember?

A. That is what I usually did.

Q. You remember this occasion I am speaking about?

A. Not very well, no.

Q. Were you passing on information from your files to Mr. Adams with such regularity and with such a matter of course that you do not remember it particularly?

A. Oh, no, but I just do not remember particularly what he asked me after each time. I did not store it up and remember. If he asked me I generally answered it and it was finished.

Q. You do remember it now?

A. I do remember it.

Q. What Mr. Adams asked you with regard to that particular matter, you remember that?

A. I think so, because he did ask about finance.

Q. And you read the file on that matter, either before he asked you or after he asked you?

A. Yes.

Q. And you told him all that you could remember about the contents of that file?

A. Yes, but that could not have been very much.

Q. I just want to know whether you told Mr. Adams all that you could remember about the contents of that file; did you?

A. I suppose so, yes.

Q. You know whether you did or not. Why do you need to suppose? Did you?

A. Yes.

Q. Mr. Adams was a member of the Party?

A. Was what?

Q. He was a member of the Party?

A. I suppose so.

Q. He attended those meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. So he was a member of the Party?

A. Yes.

Q. And he had asked you to give him information?

A. Yes.

Q. So you know perfectly well he would deliver that to the Party, everything you told him?

A. Yes, I suppose he would.

Q. All the information you gave him. You knew that it was for the benefit of the Communist Party here and the Soviet Union?

A. I did not think of the interest of the Communist Party.

Q. That was the object, whatever you could do to help the Party. You told us that this afternoon.

A. We did not—

Q. You told us when you were giving your evidence this afternoon that you had been asked to give information for the benefit of your Party and that you had hesitated before you decided to do it, so you surely know what the purpose was?

A. I only gave that to Mr. Adams, I did not give it to anybody else.

Q. You knew perfectly well what was the purpose of Mr. Adams asking you those questions?

A. Yes.

Q. You knew also what was the purpose of Mr. Rose asking you these questions?

A. Yes.

After Adams left for Montreal at the end of 1944, meetings between him and Willsher were continued on street corners in Ottawa. These were arranged by Adams through the medium of Agatha Chapman. Willsher's evidence is:

Q. How did you meet him thereafter?

A. He came to Ottawa sometimes.

Q. How often?

A. About three or four times, as far as I can remember.

Q. Four or five times?

A. No, I think three or four. I don't remember.

Q. And how would you get in touch with him then?

A. Miss Chapman told me that he was coming.

Q. Every time?

A. Yes.

Q. She would phone you?

A. Yes, or if I happened to see her anywhere.

Q. Or if you would meet her?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell us exactly what procedure was followed?

A. She would telephone, or tell me if she happened to see me somewhere.

Q. Miss Chapman would telephone you and tell you she had to see you somewhere?

A. No. She might telephone me and tell me that he was coming, or she might meet me somewhere in the normal course of events and tell me.

Q. That Adams was coming?

A. Yes.

Q. And then?

A. I would arrange to meet him.

Q. How would you arrange to meet him?

A. He usually was driving, and he would just pick me up.

Q. That is the way the meeting would take place, but how did you arrange to meet him; through whom? How would you contact him?

A. I didn't contact him; Miss Chapman just told me he was coming, and she apparently did the contacting.

Q. She told you he would be in his car at a certain place at a certain time?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were to be there?

A. Yes.

Q. And what time of the day would these meetings take place?

A. After work. I think the early evening, as far as I can remember.

Q. And where would they take place? Any corner? Any place on the street?

A. I remember at the corner of Lisgar and Bank, at the street car stop. I don't remember any other place, just there or somewhere like that.

Q. And any time you were notified that he would be at any particular place, you would meet him?

A. I would try to; yes.

Q. You did, as a matter of fact?

A. Yes.

Q. Any time?

A. Yes, any time.

Q. And what would take place from then on?

A. Just go for a short drive and talk.

Q. You would board the car with him and go for a short drive?

A. Yes.

Q. And what would take place then?

A. I would just talk to him, or he would ask me questions.

Q. And you would convey the information he was asking for?

A. Yes.

Q. And would he drive you home afterwards, or leave you on the street?

A. Just drop me wherever we happened to be.

Q. When the conversation was over?

A. Yes.

Q. And when the information was transmitted to him?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long would that last?

A. Ten minutes or a quarter of an hour.

Q. Why would you not meet him at your place?

A. Well, he didn't suggest it. He said he had the car, he would meet me at a certain place.

Q. Why did you not meet him at Miss Chapman's place?

A. If he suggested it, I would. I had met him at her place when he was in Ottawa.

Q. What reason could you give us why you would have to meet him in that extraordinary way?

A. I don't know.

Q. You have no idea?

A. No.

Q. What was Miss Chapman's address?

A. Somerset West, 392, I think.

Q. And what was your address?

A. 225 Kent Street.

Q. You had met Adams before, at Miss Chapman's?

A. Yes, because the groups were held there sometimes.